

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AID-20 ACDA-19 PC-10 DRC-01 IO-14 /160 R

66651

DRAFTED BY: USOAS:TETAYLOR

APPROVED BY: ARA:AMBASSADOR BOWDLER

ARA/CEN:DCLARE

USOAS:JWFORD

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R 251509Z JUL 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

USCINCSO

XMT AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY NASSAU

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 161463

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OAS

SUBJECT: OAS ELECTIONS

REF: STATE 121770

1. FYI: SINCE REFTEL WAS WRITTEN SIX WEEKS AGO, THE
SAPENA PASTOR CANDIDACY FOR OAS SECRETARY GENERAL APPEARS
TO HAVE GAINED MOMENTUM. HE IS STILL THE ONLY ANNOUNCED
CANDIDATE. WE KNOW OF NO TAKERS ON THE TRIAL-BALLOON
CANDIDACY OF GARCIA BEDOYA OF PERU.

2. MEANWHILE ANOTHER TRIAL BALLOON SEEMS TO HAVE
BEEN LAUNCHED, ON BEHALF OF DOMINICAN FOREIGN MINISTER
VICTOR GOMEZ BERGES. FOLLOWING THE APPEARANCE OF
NEWSPAPER REPORTS ON GOMEZ' ALLEGED CANDIDACY, GODR
UNDERSECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, IN TOWN ON A LEADER
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GRANT, SAID HER GOVERNMENT WAS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR

THE REPORTS, BUT WAS VERY INTERESTED IN OUR REACTION.
WE RESPONDED NON-COMMITALLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH REFTTEL.

3. IN ANOTHER DEVELOPMENT, NEW VENEZUELAN OAS
AMBASSADOR JOSE MARIA MACHIN WAS REPORTED IN THE
PRESS JULY 22 AS QTE VIEWING WITH INTEREST UNQTE THE
POSSIBLE CANDIDACY OF ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR TO THE
U.S. ALEJANDRO ORFILA. AN ORFILA CANDIDACY
HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN PUBLICLY ESPOUSED BY COSTA RICAN
FOREIGN MINISTER GONZALO FACIO, BUT THE ARGENTINES
HAVE GIVEN NO HINT OF THEIR PLANS, IF ANY.

4. ON JUNE 21 A PARAGUAYAN OFFICIAL CLAIMED TO HAVE
WRITTEN SUPPORT FROM SEVEN GOVERNMENTS (BOLIVIA,
BRAZIL, EL SALVADOR, HAITI, GUATEMALA, NICARAGUA
AND URUGUAY) AND ORAL PROMISES OF SUPPORT FROM THE
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, PANAMA AND CHILE. (ASUNCION 2589)
A REPORT FROM A PARAGUAYAN SOURCE A FEW DAYS LATER
INDICATED THAT GOP HAD NOTES OF SUPPORT FROM NICARAGUA
AND GUATEMALA IF THERE IS NO CENTRAL AMERICAN
CANDIDATE AND VERBAL ASSURANCES OF SUPPORT, WITH
SOME CAVEATS, FROM PANAMA, EL SALVADOR, HONDURAS
AND COSTA RICA. (SAN SALVADOR 2586) THERE HAVE BEEN
PRESS REPORTS MAKING EVEN MORE EXPANSIVE CLAIMS FOR
SAPENA, EVEN PUTTING THE U.S. SECRETLY IN SAPENA'S
CORNER.

5. USOAS HAS NO EXACT COUNT OF SUPPORT FOR SAPENA.
WE BELIEVE THAT HE PROBABLY HAS ABOUT EIGHT REASONABLY
FIRM VOTES, WITH SEVERAL OTHER GOOD POSSIBILITIES.
FIRMING UP THOSE LAST FEW VOTES IN ORDER TO GET THE
12 NECESSARY FOR ELECTION MAY NOT BE EASY. BUT
UNLESS ONE OR MORE VIABLE CANDIDATES COME ONTO THE
SCENE IN THE NEXT COUPLE OF MONTHS SAPENA PASTOR
MAY HAVE IT WRAPPED UP WELL BEFORE THE ELECTION AT
THE OAS GA IN APRIL.

6. THE CANDIDACY OF JORGE LUIS ZELAYA OF GUATEMALA
FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL SEEMS TO HAVE GOTTEN
OFF TO A SLOW START, PRIMARILY BECAUSE OF HIS FAILURE
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TO GET UNANIMOUS CENTRAL AMERICAN SUPPORT. END FYI

7. ACTION REQUESTED: THE DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE
RECEIVING ANY INFORMATION ADDRESSES MAY DEVELOP ON
CANDIDATES FOR SECRETARYGENERAL AND ASSISTANT SEC.
GENERAL. THIS SUBJECT MAY BE BROACHED INFORMALLY
WITH OFFICIALS, BUT IT SHOULD BE
DONE IN SUCH A MANNER AS NOT RPT NOT TO GIVE THE

IMPRESSION OF UNDUE OFFICIAL INTEREST. THE U.S.
POSITION REMAINS AS IN 121770.

8. FOR GUATEMALA: REF YOUR 3882. YOU MAY WISH TO
DRAW ON REFTEL TO DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH THE
GUATEMALANS. KISSINGER

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